

DEATH OF MR. BLAIR

The Ex-President of the School Board.

DIED YESTERDAY MORNING

Heart Failure Was the Immediate Cause of His Death—A Sketch of His Career.

The Hon. James Blair died at his residence, No. 156 Trowbridge street, at 8 o'clock yesterday morning. The immediate cause was heart failure. By a strange coincidence yesterday was the thirty-sixth anniversary of Mr. Blair's marriage.

Mr. Blair's illness began nearly two years ago. He began to be troubled with heart failure and felt that his life might come to an end at any day. Consequently he began to arrange the details of his business in order to leave his family as well provided for as possible. He was very reticent concerning his physical condition and never mentioned his symptoms of illness to any of his friends. About two weeks ago he ordered a telephone placed in his house, "because," he said, "I may be sick some day and not feel like going to the office. If I have a telephone I can let them know." Two weeks ago today Mr. Blair was seized with a fainting spell in the office of Sweet's hotel. Frederick Rice called a carriage and took him to his home. Mr. Blair protested that he was not seriously ill, and no physician was summoned. In spite of his declarations that it was nothing serious he continued to grow worse. He suffered terrible pains, and death finally came as a relief to his sufferings at 8 o'clock yesterday morning. He retained consciousness to the last and bade the members of his family a final good bye.

Mr. Blair was married to Eliza Turner of Plainfield December 18, 1836. Three children were the fruit of the marriage—Charles Burt Blair, James Blair, Jr., and Hugh Blair—all of whom are residents of this city. Mr. Blair left his family in comfortable circumstances, but was not wealthy at the time of his death.

The funeral will be held from the family residence, No. 156 Trowbridge street, tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. This afternoon at 3 o'clock the Kent county fair will meet in the circuit court rooms to take action on his death.

Sketch of His Life.
James Blair was born in Putnam, Washington county, N. Y., January 2, 1828. He was the son of Jonathan and Elizabeth Blair, and was one of a family of eight, seven of whom were boys. The daughter is Mrs. L. Hawley Lyon, mother of Mrs. W. A. Green. Until he was 11 years old Mr. Blair's life was spent upon the farm of his father, which bordered on the shores of beautiful Lake George. About 1839 the family moved to Michigan and settled near Lansing. The locality was an unhealthy one, and the family suffered severely from malarial attacks, particularly young James.

Mrs. Lyon, in relating their early experience in Michigan, said last night that they had often been so sick that there was not a well member of the family to assist the others. Shortly afterwards the family moved to Kent county and settled in Walker, nearly opposite Grandville.

Came to Grand Rapids.
About three years later young Blair left home and came to Grand Rapids to earn a living for himself. He finally became clerk for Pike & Roberts and remained with them six or seven years, and showed himself to be one of the shrewdest young business men in the Grand Rapids valley. In the fall of 1853 he severed his connection with Pike & Roberts. At this time Henry Spring was a member of the firm of Porter, Mathewson & Co., dealers in clothing. Mr. Spring had an opportunity to go into the dry goods business, and Mr. Blair took his place in the firm. The business was carried on in a store at the foot of Monroe street, near the present location of Spring & Co.'s dry goods store, under the firm name of Porter, Mathewson, Blair & Co. Mr. Blair remained a member of the firm until 1860. After severing this connection he entered the employ of Henry Spring as bookkeeper. At the breaking out of the war, he enlisted in the Third Michigan infantry.

At the close of the war he returned to Grand Rapids and entered the law office of Colonel George Gray. He was a remarkably proficient law student, and after being admitted to the bar he formed a partnership with Col. Gray. Mr. Blair, although he was nearly 35 years old, was too diffident to make a plea in court, and so devoted his attention to office work. Col. Gray once declared that Mr. Blair was unquestionably the best office lawyer in Michigan.

Squeezed by the Banks.
Mr. Blair engaged in the lumber business June 1873 to 1875. His first speculations were fortunate, but in 1875 lumber dropped to a very low figure. Mr. Blair had several million feet in stock, but the low prices made it difficult for him to meet his obligations. The banks were carrying a large amount of his paper, and becoming fearful, they compelled him to wind up.

Shameful Confession

It is a shameful confession to make that many people are willing to use adulterated articles because they are cheaper, and in doing so often subjecting themselves to injurious effects, for it must not be supposed that those who are willing, at the cost of reputation and for the purpose of gain, to impose adulterated goods upon the public, would hesitate to use injurious adulterants. Dr. Price has an established reputation for manufacturing good and pure articles, and his Delicious Flavoring Extracts of Vanilla, Lemon, etc., are the most perfect made.

his business at a serious loss to himself. Within three months lumber went up to a good figure. If the banks had allowed him to continue his business until that time he could have met every obligation and would have come out of the deal one of the wealthiest lumbermen in western Michigan.

After his failure in the lumber business Mr. Blair returned to the practice of law and became a member of the bar. He was elected to the legislature in 1876 and 1878. He afterwards changed to Blair, Stone & Kingsley, the junior partner being William Kingsley. In 1878 Judge Stone was elected to congress and withdrew from the firm. In 1877 the partnership was known as Blair, Kingsley & Klemm. Mr. Blair was one of the best lawyers in active court practice, but devoted his time to managing the business interests of the firm. He was considered a shrewd, foresighted business lawyer, and a man whose judgment could be relied upon. He was a clear, forthright man, who never made a business move until he had considered all its conditions and consequences.

Mr. Blair was one of the leading members of the democratic party in Kent county, but never took any decided action in a political office. In 1896 he served one term as city clerk. He was postmaster during the administration of Grover Cleveland, having received his commission September 29, 1893. He served until April 2, 1899, when President Harrison appointed Col. George O. Briggs as his successor. Mr. Blair was one of the best postmasters the city has ever had, and during his term in office secured for the city several important improvements in the local postal system. At the expiration of his term as postmaster, he returned to his duties as a member of the firm of Blair, Kingsley & Klemm.

Mr. Blair's greatest public service was in connection with the city schools. For several years he has been a member of the school board. He served three terms as president of the board, 1888-1890, 1891-1893, and 1894-1896. Many of the important changes in the school system were due to his influence. He was an advocate of the new central high school building, and as a member of the committee on teachers he did much to improve the quality of the work done in the city schools.

City News in Brief.
The annual meeting of the Fountain Street Baptist church will be held in the lecture room this evening. Trustee for three years will be elected and other business transacted. The annual meeting of pews will be on Thursday evening, at which time the women of the church will serve supper in the lecture room.

Harry Widdicombs has purchased a piece of land in Walker township containing about 150,000 feet of standing pine, which will be cut into lumber at the Widdicombs mill. It is the last piece of standing pine of any size in Kent county.

The funeral of Don G. Crawford was held yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the family residence, corner of Cherry street and Jefferson avenue. Many friends were in attendance.

The ministers and deacons of the evangelical churches are expected to meet at the Eagle hotel tomorrow night to talk over the alleged encroachments of Jesuit in this country.

Miss Lucie E. Dickinson, agent for Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul at Loyalton, S. D., is visiting her sister Mrs. George L. Savidge and Mrs. Ross H. Wells of this city.

Mrs. F. M. Davis desires it said that in the preparation of the St. Cecilia calendar material aid was furnished by the members of the Twenty, of which she is chairman.

Director Morehead said yesterday that the regular oratorio society rehearsal of tonight will be adjourned until January 2 on account of the holidays.

C. G. A. Voigt and W. K. Munson, president of the Grand Rapids Fruit Growers' association, will address the Retail Grocers' association this evening.

The Y. M. C. A. day and evening gymnasium classes will be organized this week. Director Garland has lots of applications for memberships.

The alarm of fire at 6:30 last evening from box 343 was caused by a chimney on a dwelling, No. 752 Fifth avenue, burning out. No damage.

Mitchell & La Grou will be the name of a new law firm after January 1, the result of W. W. Mitchell's removal from Iowa to this city.

A stock company is talked of by George G. Roberts and others for the purpose of buying the station Alcyon of Frank L. Noble.

The annual Christmas tree entertainment of the Fountain Street Baptist Sunday school will be held next Friday evening.

The funeral of Mrs. Thomas Ferguson was held from her late home, No. 40 West Bridge street, yesterday afternoon.

Waiter E. Baker of Highland has come to the city and entered into the employ of Harvey & Heystek as salesman.

Electric car service was shut down for a short time yesterday afternoon by a cable breaking in the power house.

Threw a Brick at Him.

As Dwight Brooks, of the firm of Brooks & Clark, real estate dealers, was passing along Canal street yesterday, a man threw a brick at him in the way of an offer for some of their lots on the Evergreen addition in the east end. While it struck somewhat below the belt, Mr. Brooks was not entirely knocked out especially as one of the considerations was that two new houses should be built on the lots, costing not less than \$1,200 each, and to be completed by the 1st of May, '93. It is not necessary to add that the offer was accepted and that they are willing to catch all such bricks that are not thrown too low down.

Their office is in the Michigan Trust building, room 821, eighth floor.

Lovers of Fragrant Cigars.
Some gentlemen prefer a box of choice and fragrant cigars to any other present that can be given them. Those that intend making a Christmas gift of this description should bear in mind that E. B. Dickman, Canal street, handles a full and complete line of cigars and tobacco. A specialty is being made of the popular "E. B. D." "Our Little Ones" and "The X. K. B." cigars. "Our Little Ones" are put up twenty-five in a box and would make a very neat little gift.

A fine assortment of ladies' caps and head-dresses at Adams & Co., No. 90 Monroe street.

Every resident should have the new pocket guide to Grand Rapids. We are giving them away free. All we ask is that you buy one hundred pounds of "Lily White" flour before they are all gone.

Valley City Milling Co. Siegel's clock store will be open every evening until after Christmas.

Only a limited number of these new pocket guides of the city. Buy your grocer one hundred pounds "Lily White" flour and get one free. Don't delay. Valley City Milling Co.

Oysters at Dettenthaler's. They are received fresh daily.

Easy Money
is that which comes as interest on deposit in the Grand Rapids Savings bank at the corner of South Division and Fulton streets. Remember this when you have either large or small amounts to spare and deposit with them.

Flour is now cheaper than it has been for many years. The celebrated "Lily White" is warranted to give satisfaction, and if you order of your grocer quickly you will get a valuable new pocket guide of Grand Rapids free. Valley City Milling Co.

You can buy a fine wool hat for 25c at Cori, Knott & Co.'s.



Small Bile Beans

Are guaranteed to cure Bilious Attacks, Sick-Headache, La Grippe, Colds, Liver Complaint and Constipation. 40 in each bottle. Price 25 cents. Sold by druggists. Picture "7, 17, 70" and sample dose free. J. F. SMITH & CO., PROP., NEW YORK.



The Largest Exclusive Carpet and Drapery House in Michigan.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFERING

-OF-

Oriental Rugs in which are many beautiful pieces worthy of careful inspection.

Fur Rugs, Baby Carriage robes, Moquette, Wilton and Smyrna Rugs.

Blackening Cases, Hassocks, Carpet Sweepers.

Our entire first floor devoted to Christmas novelties.

SMITH & SANFORD,

68 Monroe Street.



The Tariff Blackwell's Bull Durham Smoking Tobacco.

There are many other brands, each represented by some interested person to be "just as good as the BULL DURHAM." They are not; but like all counterfeits, they each lack the peculiar and attractive qualities of the genuine.

BLACKWELL'S DURHAM TOBACCO CO. DURHAM, N. C.

We attach this tag to every bag of BULL DURHAM for the protection of the smoker.

MORSE'S DEPARTMENT STORE

MONROE AND SPRING STREETS.

What is going on in the city today?

Common Council Meeting. Pastor's Meeting at 3. Sol Smith Russell at Powers'. "The Dago" at Redmond's.

What is going on at Morse's today?

Continuation of Christmas Sale.

Took a chill yesterday—that beautiful Indian Summer weather we've been enjoying. But what odds? 'Twill make the more merry Christmas. Any way, our store's always warm and comfortable, and large enough to accommodate even the immense crowd of Saturday—largest ever seen in a Grand Rapids store. A few Toys:

Steam Pile Driver.....\$20
Steam Engine.....\$50
Vestibule Train.....\$1.19
Freight Train.....\$1.18
Rocking Horses.....\$50 and up
Child's Carts.....\$20 and up
Toys.....\$20 to \$25.00
Easel Blackboard.....\$98
Child's Piano, 12-toned.....\$69
Wash Set.....\$48
Saw and Buck.....\$45

All on the basement floor and a sight to make children's eyes shine with joy.

Have you been in the Doll Department, rear of the main floor, yet? It's grand.

MORSE'S DEPARTM'T STORE
MONROE AND SPRING STS.

CLOSING OUT SALE AT THE COLUMBIA SHOE STORE 125 MONROE STREET.

Our entire stock of Ladies' Men's and Children's Boots, Shoes and Rubbers must be closed out within thirty days on account of a change in the firm.

This stock which is new, fresh and stylish, having been bought for this fall and winter trade consists of some of the best known and celebrated makes such as Edwin C. Burr's, New York; John Kelly, Rochester; Eddy & Webster, Rochester; F. Sturz, New York; W. L. Donzlas, Brockton, Mass.; C. M. Henderson, Chicago; and will be slaughtered right and left regardless of cost or value.

It will be to your own interest to avail yourself of such a rare chance to get genuine bargains as such an opportunity may never occur again. Remember that the entire stock must be disposed of within thirty days, you will do well to come at once and secure some of those phenomenal bargains before the stock and sizes are broken up.

COLUMBIA SHOE STORE 125 MONROE ST.

MICHIGAN PRINTERS

Will find it to their best interests to get our prices on TYPE and PRINTERS' IMPLEMENTS of all kinds, as well as FLAT PAPERS, CARDBOARDS, RULED HEADINGS, etc.; We are the largest Printers' Supply House in the State. Write for Catalogue and Discounts.

HARRIS' PAPER HOUSE.
23 North Iowa St. Grand Rapids, Mich.

AMUSEMENTS.
POWER GRAND OPERA HOUSE
WM. T. POWERS, Proprietor.
WM. H. POWERS, Manager.
MONDAY and TUESDAY, DEC. 19 and 20
MR. SOL SMITH RUSSELL
In Mr. Edward F. Kipper's beautiful play.
MONDAY EVENING, "PEACEFUL VALLEY!"
A Supreme and Worthy Success.
TUESDAY EVENING, "POOR RELATIONS!"
Special Scenery. Superb Cast.
PRICES—Entire lower floor and first three rows in first dress circle \$1.00; back rows in dress circle, 75c; balcony, 50c and 25c. No extra charge for reserved seats. Sale of seats will open on Friday morning (19th) at 9 o'clock.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE
BRADY & GARNWOOD, Managers.
To-Night and All Week
THE CARROLLS IN THE CLEVER ARTISTS! DAGO
A Four Comedy Drama by Richard F. Carroll.
STARTLING SCENIC EFFECTS! BRIGHT GEMS OF MUSIC! ARTISTIC DANCING!
Matinee—Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. Popular Prices—10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c, 45c, 50c, 55c, 60c, 65c, 70c, 75c, 80c, 85c, 90c, 95c, 1.00. **Next Sunday and All Week—"Under the Lion's Paw."**

OBERLIN COLLEGE GLEE CLUB
PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
TUESDAY EVENING, DEC. 20.
19-MALE VOICES-19
The Glee Club have sung in the principal cities of the United States and have everywhere earned the hearts of the auditors with their clever singing.
COME AND HEAR THEM.
PRICE . . . 50c.

POWER GRAND OPERA HOUSE
WM. T. POWERS, Proprietor.
WM. H. POWERS, Manager.
WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 21
Marie Wilson Beasley's
ELOCUTIONARY CONTEST and ENTERTAINMENT.
Admission 50 cents. Reserved seats with out extra charge. Lower boxes \$5.00. Loge seats \$1.00.

SMITH'S OPERA HOUSE
WILLIAM B. SMITH, Proprietor and Manager.
MONDAY NIGHT, DEC. 19.
With Usual Matinee Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.
The Cheapest, Best and Largest Show in the City. Prices 10, 25, 35 and 50 cents.
ANOTHER ENTIRE NEW COMPANY!
20 Star Artists 20
The Beautiful Burlesque.
PRINCESS CHARMING
Lovely Wanda! Charming Music! Elegant Costumes! New Scenery! Followed by a Grand Ode of Specialties. Concluding with a Laughable Comedy entitled,
THE FEMALE SEMINARY! Characters by entire company.

TEETH CAN BE SAVED.
No Teeth Need Be Extracted.
One Natural Tooth is Worth More than a Full Set of Artificial Ones.
Try the Painless Method.
ROBINSON DENTAL CO.,
6 MONROE STREET.
M. H. LAMOREE, DENTIST.
Vitalized Air for the Extraction of Teeth Administered Free.
All Work Done at Moderate Prices and Guaranteed First Class.
Office open from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. Sundays from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m.
Office 45 Monroe Street. Over the 5-cent Store.
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

FREE WATCHES given away to boys and girls. If any boy or girl watches an elegant watch, solid silver chain, chain bracelet and set, good time keeper, write at once to
MILLER TEA COMPANY,
112 Ontario St., Cleveland, Ohio.
W. F. SHATTUCK & CO.,
26 South Division Street.
Upholstering Furniture Repairing
The best work at the lowest figures. Telephone 123 for W. F. Shattuck & Co.'s sewing machine.

RUPTURES
Destroy Comfort.
RUPTURES ARE DANGEROUS
Ruptures Cured!!
\$5.
No knife or external operation. No truss used. Dr. S. Clay Todd guarantees to reduce the rupture one-third or one-half its size in 14 days. Medicines sent to any address receipt of \$1. Not sold at drug stores. Call or write free. Letters answered promptly. Free of charge. Dr. S. Clay Todd, the famous specialist, 11 North Division street, up stairs, rooms 1 and 4, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dr. S. Clay Todd
The Famous Nerve Specialist.
No. 16 North Division St.
ROOMS 1, 2 and 4.
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
Cures Paralysis, Twitching, Pinching or Prickling Sensations, Trembling Feelings, Back or Head Ache, Back or Neck Pains, sometimes running down the arms of back, Dizziness and other symptoms leading to paralysis. Nervous Debility and Female Complaints and Chronic Diseases. Consultation free and confidential. No charge for services until cured. Directions in all languages.
RHEUMATISM ALWAYS CURED.
CATARH and HEAD NOISES CURED.
DROPSY CURED.
FITS AND ALL NERVE AND BRAIN DISEASES CURED.
EYE AND EAR DISEASES CURED.
THE ONLY ONE WHO CURES DEAFNESS.
Catarrh, deafness, rheumatism, nervous debility, impotence and all diseases resulting from early indiscretions and excesses of manhood, all diseases of the urinary organs, partial paralysis, varicose veins, hemorrhoids, scrofula, old sores, dropsy, skin diseases, liver and kidney complaints, heart disease, shortness of breath, back of head, numbness of back, etc., including all female complaints and chronic diseases cured quickly and permanently. That cough, slight fever and weakness, shortness of breath, palpitation of heart, my means sure and quick consumptions. If you are nervous, restless, irritable, sleepless or wake after horrid dreams, tired mornings, with a dull headache, bad taste in the mouth, sometimes discharges, and so about your employment without life, energy or ambition, desire to be alone, gloomy forebodings, a disposition to worry and fret about trouble ahead that never comes, spells of feeling afraid or uncertain, sometimes loss of spirits, you are suffering from nervous debility and exhaustion of nerve power, which may end in utter prostration, insanity and death. If you have a great sense of weakness and weariness, with tired limbs, numbness, trembling, prickly sensations, cold feet and hands, you are advancing to that most serious disease—Paralysis. If your head aches, feel numb and tired, with strange sensations, loss of memory, and you think with difficulty or you are sleepless at night, with dizziness and dullness during the day, the nerve and brain fatigue may soon run into insanity or death. If you have any of these feelings do not neglect them, or they will end in paralysis, insanity, prostration or death. As you value your life do not neglect these warnings. Time and experience has shown, and hundreds of startling and peculiar cures have proved that these diseases are perfectly and completely cured by DR. S. CLAY TODD, 14 N. Division street, rooms 1, 2 and 4, Grand Rapids, Mich. Under the use of DR. S. CLAY TODD'S "nerve-kidney" remedies all these symptoms yield as if by magic, and strength of nerve, vigor of brain, vitality of blood and health of body are soon restored. His remedies are purely vegetable and harmless, and can only be obtained at his office. DR. TODD compounds his preparations before each patient in his office. DR. TODD'S office is at 16 N. Division street, rooms 1, 2 and 4, Grand Rapids, Mich. His medicines agree with the stomach, and you can eat anything you choose. He is in his office from 9 in the morning until 7 in the evening every day but Sunday. Call every body. A friendly talk will do you nothing. Low charges. Rapid cures.